

REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the final Office Action dated September 6, 2006. Claims 1, 4-7 and 10 are pending, with claims 2, 3, 8 and 9 having previously been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 7 have been amended to place the claims in better form for consideration, without narrowing a scope of the claimed invention. Accordingly, claims 1, 4-7 and 10 are presented for reconsideration, with claims 1 and 7 being in independent form.

Claims 1 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as purportedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,387,042 to Brown. Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as purportedly unpatentable over Brown in view of Surloff et al. (US 2002/0174231 A1). Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as purportedly unpatentable over Brown in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,523,754 to Eisen et al. Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as purportedly unpatentable over Brown in view of Surloff and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,523,754 to Eisen. Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as purportedly unpatentable over Brown in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,202,041 to Kaplow et al.

Applicant has carefully considered the Examiner's comments and the cited art, and respectfully submits that independent claims 1 and 7 are patentable over the cited art, for at least the following reasons.

This application relates to a communication device having a keyboard and/or a numeric keypad, wherein the communication device is configured to store and provide a plurality of key-map tables for user selection. Thus, the user can select a desired configuration of the keys which makes it easier for the user to use the communication device.

Applicant devised the further improvement of providing in the communication device a

plotter and a recording/outputting unit which creates, based on the selected key-map table, image data to be recorded on a label to be applied to the keyboard, records an image corresponding to the created image data on the label, and outputs the label on which the image is recorded, by using the plotter. Such a feature provides the appropriate labeling corresponding to the selected key-map table, so that the user can determine the key-to-character mapping for each key. Each of independent claims 1 and 7 addresses these features, as well as additional features.

Brown does not teach or suggest such features. Brown, as understood by Applicant, proposes a multilingual keyboard system including a CPU and a logic system configured through software to facilitate multilingual typing from a single keyboard. Keys on the keyboard have pre-applied labels corresponding to a default character set. However, the system is provided with a number of pre-printed template panels, each panel corresponding to a particular alternate selectable character set and being configured to be overlaid over and around the keys. The user operates a keyboard mode toggle key to choose the desired character set and overlays the corresponding template over the keyboard.

Contrary to the contention in the Office Action, Brown does not teach or suggest that the communication device includes a plotter and a recording/outputting unit which creates, based on the selected key-map table, image data to be recorded on a label to be applied to the keyboard, records an image corresponding to the created image data on the label, and outputs the label on which the image is recorded, by using the plotter.

Brown, column 10, lines 1-22 and 53-68, and column 10, line 53 through column 11, line 9, which was cited in the Office Action states as follows:

The manner in which the key members 20 and the template 18 interact is illustrated in FIG. 5, and the particular structure of a typical alternate template 18' is illustrated in FIG. 6. As shown in FIG. 6, the keyboard overlay template 18' is essentially a single planar structure which has been cut to fit the particular shape of the key layout 26. The template 8 (or 18') will

be constructed of a pliable semi-rigid material, such as plastic, for facilitating installation and removal. To this end, the template 18' includes a back plate portion 66 having several key windows 68 removed therefrom. The key windows 68 are adapted to receive the keys 20 of the various types and will be positioned and sized according to the specific structure of the key layout 26 of the keyboard unit 12 which is selected for use. For the type of overlay template 18 illustrated in FIG. 1 (and the similar alternate template 18' illustrated in FIG. 6), a total of five key windows 68 are provided, with one being adapted to receive the function keys located along the left side of the keyboard 12 and the rest being adapted to receive the typical keys of the key layout 26 illustrated in FIG. 1.

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In addition to the key labels 52 appearing on the label panel 70, there may be additional information printed on the keyboard overlay template 18. This might include such items as the title of the particular template and the code corresponding to the mode. This sort of information may be placed on the back plate 66 in whatever location is desired.

As is shown in FIGS. 3, 4 and 5, it may be seen that the label panels 70 which are situated intermediate the longitudinal key windows 68 will fit within the template detent 62 of an associated one of the key members 20. The spacing and shaping of the key members 20 is such that the template 18 may be easily installed by aligning the key windows 68 above and slightly in front of the associated key member 20 and pushing forward and down to insert all of the label panel 70 into the template detent 62, with the back plate 66 laying flush against the frame member 24. An alternate, easy-insertion, design of the labels panels 70 has these panels "hinged" so as to be easily aligned to be inclined from the plane of the back plate 66. This may be accomplished by actual hinging on the lateral edges of the label panels 70 or by providing deformation slots in the same location to facilitate independent inclination of each panel 70. This makes it easier to install and remove the template 18.

Thus, it is clear that the templates proposed by Brown are pre-printed, and from the user's perspective, they are limited to those supplied with the system.

On the other hand, the subject matter of claim 1 of the present application includes a plotter and a recording/outputting unit which creates, based on the selected key-map table, image data to be recorded on a label to be applied to the keyboard, records an image corresponding to the created image data on the label, and outputs the label on which the image is recorded, by using the plotter. Accordingly, labels can be created for any of the possible key-map tables,

including new key-map tables downloaded through a network (such as the Internet).

Brown, column 14, lines 1-25, which was also cited in the Office Action and states as follows, proposes a future adaptation of the template wherein yet-undeveloped (as acknowledged in the reference itself) technology can be applied to a "super deluxe" version of the keyboard:

A further modification which is contemplated is the elimination of the physical template and replacement with a virtual template, by incorporating all of the template features into the keyboard itself. Although this will require a highly sophisticated keyboard microprocessor 74, it is feasible to incorporate all of the features presently provided by the template 18 into the "super deluxe" version of the keyboard 12. This **future** embodiment, which is **not presently feasible** due to high component costs and the scarcity of unicode receptive CPU systems, will allow a single keyboard to be used in essentially unlimited circumstances.

One manner in which this may be accomplished is in an embodiment where each potential template configuration is stored in memory in the keyboard, as in the present UNICODE embodiment, the portions of the keyboard frame 24 which are presently overlapped by the label panels 70 will be replaced by flat panel displays (LCD, or the like). Selection of a particular alternate mode will then cause the display of the desired character set to appear on the flat panel displays in the same location as do the labels on the present label panels. This sort of structure will facilitate extremely rapid switching from language to language and will allow reprogramming to accommodate changes in styles, as well.

Thus, although Brown proposes some interesting reading for one's imagination, Brown simply does not teach or suggest a communication device that includes a plotter and a recording/outputting unit which creates, based on the selected key-map table, image data to be recorded on a label to be applied to the keyboard, records an image corresponding to the created image data on the label, and outputs the label on which the image is recorded, by using the plotter, as provided by the subject matter of claim 1 of the present application.

The remaining references were cited only against dependent claims in the application.

Surloff, as understood by Applicant, proposes a system wherein users are provided with means for in a computer keyboard for accessing e-commerce web sites to purchase goods and services from the web sites. Surloff was cited in the Office Action as purportedly proposing that configuration information regarding a configuration of the communication device is obtained so

that the keyboard character layout is selected according to the configuration information.

Eisen, as understood by Applicant, proposes a keyboard system wherein when a user changes from one computer software application in a first language to another computer software application in another language, the keyboard is automatically reconfigured to support the other language. Eisen was cited in the Office Action as purportedly proposing that situation information regarding a nation where the communication device is situated is obtained, and the keyboard character layout is selected according to the situation information.

However, Applicant simply does not find teaching or suggestion in the cited art of a communication device that includes a plotter and a recording/outputting unit which creates, based on the selected key-map table, image data to be recorded on a label to be applied to the keyboard, records an image corresponding to the created image data on the label, and outputs the label on which the image is recorded, by using the plotter, as provided by the subject matter of claim 1 of the present application.

Independent claim 7 is patentably distinct from the cited art for at least similar reasons.

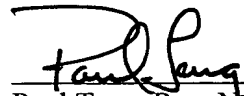
Accordingly, for at least the above-stated reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1 and 7, and the claims depending therefrom, are patentable over the cited art.

In view of the remarks hereinabove, Applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant earnestly solicits the allowance of the application.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition. The Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required in connection with this amendment and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Teng", is written over a horizontal line.

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